In memory of Clarrie Handreck

Rediscovery of the seaweed limpet *Naccula parva* in Victorian waters

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Abstract
After an lapse of 90 years, the small limpet *Naccula parva* is again reported as living on the seagrass *Amphibolis antarctica* at Portland, western Victoria. (*The Victorian Naturalist* **127** (6), 2010, 246–247)

Keywords: small limpet, seagrass, live specimens, western Victoria

Ninety years ago in 1920, Melbourne pharmacist and amateur conchologist Charles Gabriel (1897-1963) and family holidayed at Portland, western Victoria, where he studied the marine molluscan fauna. Shortly afterwards, he and Gatliff wrote a paper (Gatliff and Gabriel 1922) listing 10 additions to the marine molluscan fauna of Victoria, all from Portland. Among them was the small limpet *Nacella* [now *Naccula*] *parva* Angas 1878 'found living on the seaweed *Cymodocea* [now *Amphibolis*] *antarctica*' (Wire Weed or Sea Nymph). Apart from Cotton (1959) who included Port Fairy, Victoria, as the easternmost point of distribution of *Naccula parva*, and Valentine (1965) who found a posterior fragment from quaternary fossil beds at Port Fairy, which is thought to have been from a species of *Naccula*, the authors are unaware of any further records of the species from Victorian waters.

During the Marine Research Group's extended field trip to the Portland area in February 2007, the fauna in the lower intertidal *Amphibolis antarctica* beds at Anderson Point were carefully sampled for their fauna by running small (120 – 150 mm diameter) kitchen sieves through the lower wiry stems and upper leafy fronds. Much to the delight of the authors each found one live specimen of *Naccula parva*. Both shells were about 5 mm long, with the bluntly pointed apex projecting just beyond the anterior edge of the shell. The live animals were a bright light green colour, which undoubtedly made them impossible to see when positioned upon the darker green leaves of *Amphibolis*. The shell has a medial row of pale bluish spots, and although transparent, it appears green from the colour of the animal within. Both specimens are now deposited in the marine invertebrate collection, Museum Victoria, registration number F126956.

Hickman (2005) studied living *Naccula parva* at Esperance, southern Western Australia. There she found live specimens on three species of the seagrass *Posidonia* as well as on *A. antarctica*, and commented (Hickman 2005: 226-227):

> Live individuals were most common on *Posidonia australis*, occurring on the clean lower portions of the blades and between the leaf sheath and the blade. Animals were able to crawl either forward to backward. Animals excavate the blade surface with the radula and feed on chloroplasts in the epidermis.

Esperance specimens had a cream-coloured mantle within the shell, in marked contrast to the bright green of the Portland animals. Hickman (2005: 221) also noted that:

> identification of the Patellogastropod limpets on Australian seagrasses is hampered by lack of photographic illustrations in the literature and conflicting accounts of the diagnostic features associated with the available species names.

Fig. 1. Dorsal view of live *Naccula parva*, Anderson Point, Portland, 23 February 2007

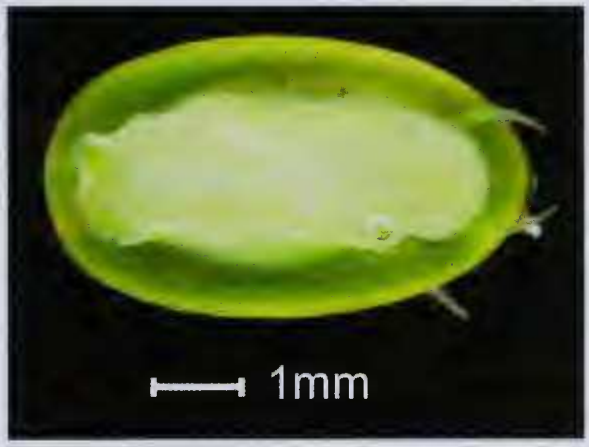

Fig. 2. Ventral view of live *Naccula parva*, Anderson Point, Portland, 23 February 2007

Fig. 3. Left lateral view of live *Naccula parva*, Anderson Point, Portland, 23 February 2007

The authors are therefore pleased to provide dorsal (Fig. 1), ventral (Fig. 2) and lateral (Fig. 3) images of the live Portland animals, and to again report *Naccula parva* from Victorian waters.

Acknowledgements
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